supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip, the supply lines being arranged to interact with the supply elements which correspond to the microfluid structure,

an interface element, and

a holder for carrying the interface element,

the interface element including a structure for connecting the supply lines with at least one of the supply elements that correspond to the microfluid structure,

the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder,

the interface element having exterior surfaces resistant to the substances processed by the microchip.

Please add NEW claims ~~18~~ 25 as follows:

--18. The device according to claim 1 wherein the cooperating structures are such that the interface element is locked in place on a securing structure of the holder in response to rotation of the interface element relative to the holder.

--19. The device according to claim 1 further including a housing for the (a) microchip, (b) holder, (c) interface element and (d) supply unit, and wherein the holder and housing have

cooperating structures for enabling the holder to be selectively (a) locked into place in the housing and (b) released and removed from the housing.

--20. A device for operating a microchip with a microfluid structure for chemical, physical, and/or biological processing, the microchip including supply elements corresponding with the microfluid structure, comprising

a supply unit for providing a potential for moving substances corresponding to the microfluid structure, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip, the supply lines being arranged to interact with the supply elements which correspond to the microfluid structure,

an interface element, and

a holder for carrying the interface element,

the interface element including a structure for connecting the supply lines with at least one of the supply elements that correspond to the microfluid structure,

the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder,

the interface element consisting of materials and structures that can be cleaned with chemicals for reuse.

--21. The device according to claim 20 further including a housing for the (a) microchip, (b) holder, (c) interface element and (d) supply unit, and wherein the holder and housing have cooperating structures for enabling the holder to be selectively (a) locked into place in the housing and (b) released and removed from the housing.

--22. A device for operating a microchip with a microfluid structure for chemical, physical, and/or biological processing, the microchip including supply elements corresponding with the microfluid structure, comprising

a supply unit for providing a potential for moving substances corresponding to the microfluid structure, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip, the supply lines being arranged to interact with the supply elements which correspond to the microfluid structure,

an interface element, and

a holder for carrying the interface element,

the interface element including a structure for connecting the supply lines with at least one of the supply elements that correspond to the microfluid structure,

the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface element to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder,

a housing for the (a) microchip, (b) holder, (c) interface element and (d) supply unit, the holder and housing having cooperating structures for enabling the holder to be selectively (a) locked into place in the housing and (b) released and removed from the housing.

--23. A system for enabling plural microchips with different microfluidic configurations to be interchangeably used, the different microfluidic configurations having different supply element configurations, comprising a supply unit for providing a potential for moving substances in a microchip being used in a device of the system, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip being used in the device, a plurality of interface elements having supply lines for selective connection between the supply lines of the source and the supply elements of the microchips, different ones of the interface elements having different supply line configurations for supplying potentials from the supply lines of the source to the supply elements of the microchips with the different microfluidic configurations, the interface elements having exterior surfaces that are resistant to the substances processed by the microchip.

--24. A system for enabling plural microchips with different microfluidic configurations to be interchangeably used, the different microfluidic configurations having different supply element configurations, comprising a supply unit for providing a

potential for moving substances in a microchip being used in a device of the system, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip being used in the device, a plurality of interface elements having supply lines for selective connection between the supply lines of the source and the supply elements of the microchips, different ones of the interface elements having different supply line configurations for supplying potentials from the supply lines of the source to the supply elements of the microchips with the different microfluidic configurations, the interface elements consisting of materials and structures that can be cleaned with chemicals for reuse.

--25. A system for enabling plural microchips with different microfluidic configurations to be interchangeably used, the different microfluidic configurations having different supply element configurations, comprising a supply unit for providing a potential for moving substances in a microchip being used in a device of the system, the supply unit having supply lines for enabling the potential to be coupled to the microchip being used in the device, a plurality of interface elements having supply lines for selective connection between the supply lines of the source and the supply elements of the microchips, different ones of the interface elements having different supply line configurations for supplying potentials from the supply lines of the source to the supply elements of the microchips with the different microfluidic

configurations, the interface element including a structure for connecting the supply lines with at least one of the supply elements that correspond to the microfluid structure, the interface element and the holder having structures for enabling the interface unit to be releasably connectable to the holder so that the interface element can be selectively secured to and removed from the holder, a housing for the (a) microchip, (b) holder, (c) interface element and (d) supply unit, the holder and housing having cooperating structures for enabling the holder to be selectively (a) locked into place in the housing and (b) released and removed from the housing.--